Somers Park Primary School

Newsletter: Autumn 9
Friday 6th November 2026

Somers Park site Tel: 01684 572949
Malvern Vale site Tel: 01684 574497

Dear families,

What a positive first week back it has been. The children have returned settled and ready to learn, there has been some fantastic work taking place in classrooms, and we've even been fortunate with the weather for most of the week!

I was also pleased to receive some encouraging information from the Department for Education yesterday, highlighting just how well our children are doing with their attendance. Not only has attendance improved across the school, but it also remains above the national average, even when compared with schools with a similar context to our own.

This commitment that you and your children show towards education really does make a difference. Strong attendance helps children make the most of every opportunity in school, supports their academic progress and social development, and builds positive habits for the future, so thank you very much and well done! 😊

Date Change: Christmas Lunch

Just to let you know, our school Christmas Lunch as well as our Christmas Jumper day, has now changed to **Wednesday 9th December.**



Attendance Matters!

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Keep working hard with your attendance!

Whole school attendance this week:

96.2%

Superstar classes with attendance of over 97% this week are:

2nd November – 5th November 2026

Class	Attendance
Nursery- Stars	100.0%
2-BEECH, Miss Hartwright	100.0%
2EB, Miss Brookes	100.0%
O- OAK, Mrs Cullerne	100.0%
4LE, Mrs Luckman and Mrs Evans	99.1%
5VD, Mrs Dawson	98.7%
1-ELM, Mrs Willis	98.5%
5-Maple, Miss Adams	98.2%
0-RAG Miss Godwin	98.1%
3KC, Miss Cecil	97.8%
4-CEDAR, Mrs Beasley	97.5%
2RD Mr Dudley	97.3%
0-RAW, Miss Ward	97.1%
3SS, Miss Shaw	97.0%

School photos

Individual and sibling school photos took place at Somers Park site today, look out for the information about how to make your order!

Children at the Malvern Vale site will have their individual and sibling photographs taken on Wednesday next week.





Join Our Team

Teaching Assistant

TA2 SCP 5/6
11 hours
Tuesday, Wednesday. 8.45am- 3.15pm
Somers Park site. Year 5 and 6.
Term time only.
Permanent
Closing date: Thursday 19th November
Start date: as soon as possible

SEND Teaching Assistant 1:1

TA2 SCP 5/6
18 hours- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.
8.45am- 3.15pm
Malvern Vale site. KS2
Term time only.
Fixed term
Closing date: Thursday 19th November
Start date: as soon as possible

SEND Teaching Assistant 1:1

TA2 SCP 5/6
30 hours- Monday- Friday.
8.45am- 3.15pm
Somers Park site. KS1
Term time only.
Fixed term
Closing date: Thursday 19th November
Start date: as soon as possible

Nursery Teaching Assistant (Level 3)

TA2 SCP 5/6
Monday and Tuesday 4pm- 6pm.
Friday 1pm- 6pm
Somers Park site
Term time only.
Permanent
Closing date: Monday 15th November
Start date: as soon as possible

From the classroom...

Let's hear from Reception:

Reception have had such a busy and exciting week!

Diwali

We have been learning all about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. The children enjoyed learning the story of Rama and Sita and finding out how Diwali is celebrated. We made our own diva lamps, designed colourful rangoli patterns, and even enjoyed a tasty Diwali feast with our friends.







Theatre visit

On Thursday morning, we also went on a trip to the Swan Theatre to see The Gruffalo. The children loved the show, especially meeting the different characters, joining in with the dances, and of course, travelling on the coach! It was a very exciting day from start to finish. It was also perfect timing, as we have just started practising for our Nativity. Watching a live performance helped the children see what goes into putting on a show and has inspired lots of excitement as

we begin preparing for our own special performance.

Ted said- " I liked the owl crashing into the trees and it was super funny."
Ezra said- "It was the best show ever!"
Maisie said- "I loved the snakes dancing"

We were so proud of how well all the children behaved. They represented Somers Park beautifully and had a fantastic time 😊



Help Our School Classrooms!

We are regularly asked by parents and families how they can help support our school, so we have acted! Our staff have put together an Amazon Wish List of items that would be incredibly useful in supporting teaching and learning across our school.
With school budgets continuing to be stretched, any additional resources make a real difference to the experiences and opportunities we can provide for our children. If you would like to purchase an item from the list, it will be delivered directly to school.
We understand that not everyone is able to help, but any support, big or small, is greatly appreciated.
Thank you for your continued generosity and support. Every little bit really does make a difference!

👉 **View our Amazon Wish List here**

Have a lovely weekend.
Best wishes,

Chris Hansen

News from Mercian Educational Trust

School Explained: What is Phonics?

You may hear your child talking about phonics at school. But what is it, and why do children have phonics lessons rather than simply calling them English lessons?

Phonics is one of the ways children learn to read.

Children learn that letters, and groups of letters, represent different sounds. For example, they learn the sounds made by letters such as s and t, as well as groups of letters such as sh, ch and oo.

They then learn how to put, or blend, these sounds together to read a word.
For example:
c – a – t = cat

Phonics gives children a way to work out words they have not seen before. As their reading develops, they begin to recognise more and more words automatically.

Is phonics the same as English?

Phonics is part of learning English, rather than something separate from it.

English lessons cover lots of different skills, including speaking, listening, reading, writing, spelling and understanding stories. Phonics focuses particularly on the important early skills children need to learn to read and spell.

As children become more confident readers, they continue to develop their reading, writing, vocabulary and understanding throughout English lessons.

Why does school teach phonics?

Learning to read opens the door to every other part of school life.

Celebrating Success at Somers Park

This Week's Values Champions

Class	Child	Values Champion for...
SP site EY and KS1	Mabel Brannelly (Year 2)	**Thrive** -Mabel thrives at school and works hard every day – especially in phonics!
SP site KS2	Jack Del Monte (Year 6)	**Thrive**- Jack makes the most of every opportunity and consistently demonstrates the Somers Park Way!
	Kaia Zacharko (Year 4)	**Believe**- Kaia is the most positive and supportive pupil; a real role model to her peers.
MV site	Lauren Wheeley (Maple)	**Excel –** Lauren always tries her best, being careful and considerate in all that she does.
	Scarlett Henshaw (Cedar)	**Thrive** – Scarlett has a wonderful positive attitude and has great confidence and enthusiasm.

This Week's Stars of the Week

Class	Child	Star of the Week for...
Nursery Stars	Zakairya I	For having a fantastic first week in Stars!
Nursery Rainbows	Holly	For always being a kind and caring friend and listening always to the adults!
	Abigail	For gaining confidence with our nursery routine and for starting to approach the adults to have a little conversation ☺
RAW	Johnny-Jay L	For trying really hard with his learning!
	Harley S	For his super blending in Phonics!
RAG	Ezra T	For trying really hard in phonics!
	Zayn A	For being ready, respectful and safe on our trip.
MV Oak	George S	For sitting beautifully with his classmates to watch the Gruffalo at the theatre.
	Chester C	For working so hard to learn new sounds in phonics.
1HW	Lincoln J	For his fantastic effort with his firework poem in English!
	Harry FS	For his fantastic firework poem!
MV Elm	Freddie D	For fantastic reasoning when talking about 2D and 3D shapes.
	Trey Francis	For writing an amazing firework poem and working hard on his handwriting.
2RD	Hunter G	For always following the Somers Park Way
	Ali I	For always showing he is ready to learn.
2EB	Toby R	For being sensible and a kind friend to others during forest school.
	Dexter F	For super listening and sitting in check 5 on the carpet.

Continued on the next page...

Class	Child	Star of the Week
MV Beech	August R-K	For his fantastic handwriting this week in our English lessons.
	Taylor P	For some excellent maths when using addition and subtraction.
3SS	Nolan H	For writing some brilliant similes to describe mythical creatures.
	Freya M	For coming to school with a positive attitude and a smile on her face every day.
3KC	Freya B	For always being a great friend and showing kindness to others.
	Mickey F	For always challenging himself during the daily mile, to improve his laps!
MV Pine	Joey W	His excellent attitude and effort in English- super similes!
	Theo H	Excellent problem solving in his work on column subtraction
4SB	Maren T	For creating an excellent story map that clearly organised her ideas.
	Alfie H	For confidently calculating the area of shapes in maths this week.
4LE	Iris Y	For always giving 100% to everything she does.
	William T	Excellent 'Area' work in maths this week.
MV Cedar	Maybel B	For using powerful vocabulary in her writing.
	Ben S	For his excellent teamwork and confidence when performing partner balances.
5RM	Maisie B	For a creative and thoughtful poem about WW1.
	Shae W	For being a kind and thoughtful friend and wanting to support others.
5VD	Jack H	For excellent maths skills this week, especially in arithmetic.
	Evelyn R	For careful, neat work on her DT project, a cam toy.
MV Maple	Pearl B	For great work on fractions and always being such a helpful member of our class.
	Len S	For his positive 'can do' attitude to all of his learning.
6GL	Daisy A	For starting to share her ideas and answers during class discussions.
	Lilly H	For her enthusiastic approach to her learning, she always tries her best – well done!
6MM	Daisy L	Fantastic focus in Maths, working hard to understand fractions.
	Emma B	Always trying her best in all that she does and beautiful presentation!
MV Willow	Immy M	For always displaying the Somers Park values
	Scarlett S	For always challenging herself in her writing.
Special mentions		
Lunchtime (MV site)	Violet B	For being amazing with the children and helping with opal, most days this week.
Wraparound (MV site)	Flynn W	Being most polite when speaking with wraparound staff.

Community Links









